



**Mojave
Water
Agency**

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April 23, 2015

Attn: Craig Cross
California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Subject: Comments on proposed recipients for the 2015 Water Energy Grant

Dear Mr. Cross:

On behalf of the Mojave Water Agency (MWA), thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed recipients for the 2015 Water Energy Grant. The Mojave Water Agency would like to request additional consideration of our grant application.

As one of 29 State Water Contractors, MWA is located in the arid Mojave Desert in a service territory that encompasses 4,900 square miles with a population of 450,000. On average, our region receives less than 5 inches of water per year, and therefore we embrace conservation as a way of life. Our conservation programs have been in place for more than a decade, and have achieved impressive results. Since 2000, our region has reduced per capita consumption by more than 30 percent thanks to grants from the Department of Water Resources.

Recently, the Mojave Water Agency submitted a \$2 million grant proposal to continue our Turf Removal rebate program that began in 2008. To date, MWA has expended \$4 million on this program and have removed nearly 7.5 million square feet of turf offering a rebate of only \$0.50 per square foot. Our region has embraced this program and we believe will be able to significantly remove additional turf if we are able to increase the rebate amount. Governor Jerry Brown has ordered that the state remove 50 million square feet of turf before February 2016. Award of this grant will enable MWA to remove additional turf to help meet this mandate.

Request 1:

We request a re-evaluation of our DAC status. (Please see attached maps.)

For more than a decade, the Department of Water Resources has used a consistent methodology to determine Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) status based upon Median Household Income (MHI). Mojave Water Agency's DAC status is based upon 80% of MHI for DAC and 60% of MHI for Severe DAC. In this recent grant application the CalEnviro Screen 2.0 method was used to determine DAC status. As a result, the MWA grant application ranked 18th on the list and received a funding priority of "6." This new process of DAC determination resulted in MWA's grant narrowly missing the funding threshold.

It is MWA's desire to work with the State to continue to help remove turf from our communities to comply with Governor Brown's mandate to achieve the statewide goal of 50 million square feet of turf removed by the February 16, 2015 deadline. Therefore, MWA requests a re-evaluation of our region's DAC status based on the accepted DWR DAC determination methodology. Attached are documents for your review.

Request 2:

If MWA's DAC status remains as determined by the CalEnviro Screen 2.0 methodology, MWA then requests that DWR increase the funding

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our request. We welcome the opportunity to continue to partner with the State to ensure water sustainability during these challenging times and in the future.

Sincerely,



Kirby Brill, General Manager
Mojave Water Agency

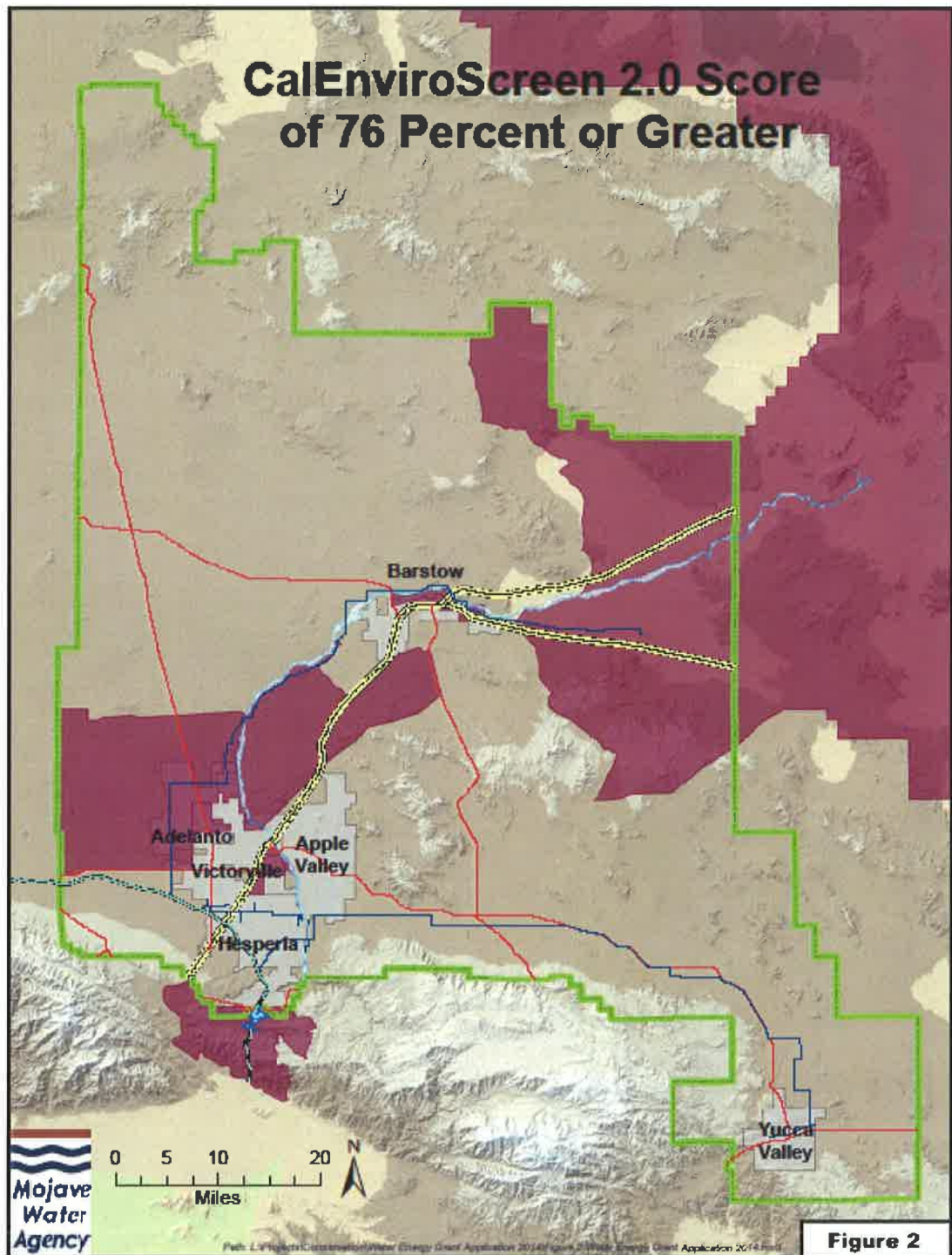


Figure 2: CalEnviroScreen designation of disadvantaged areas.

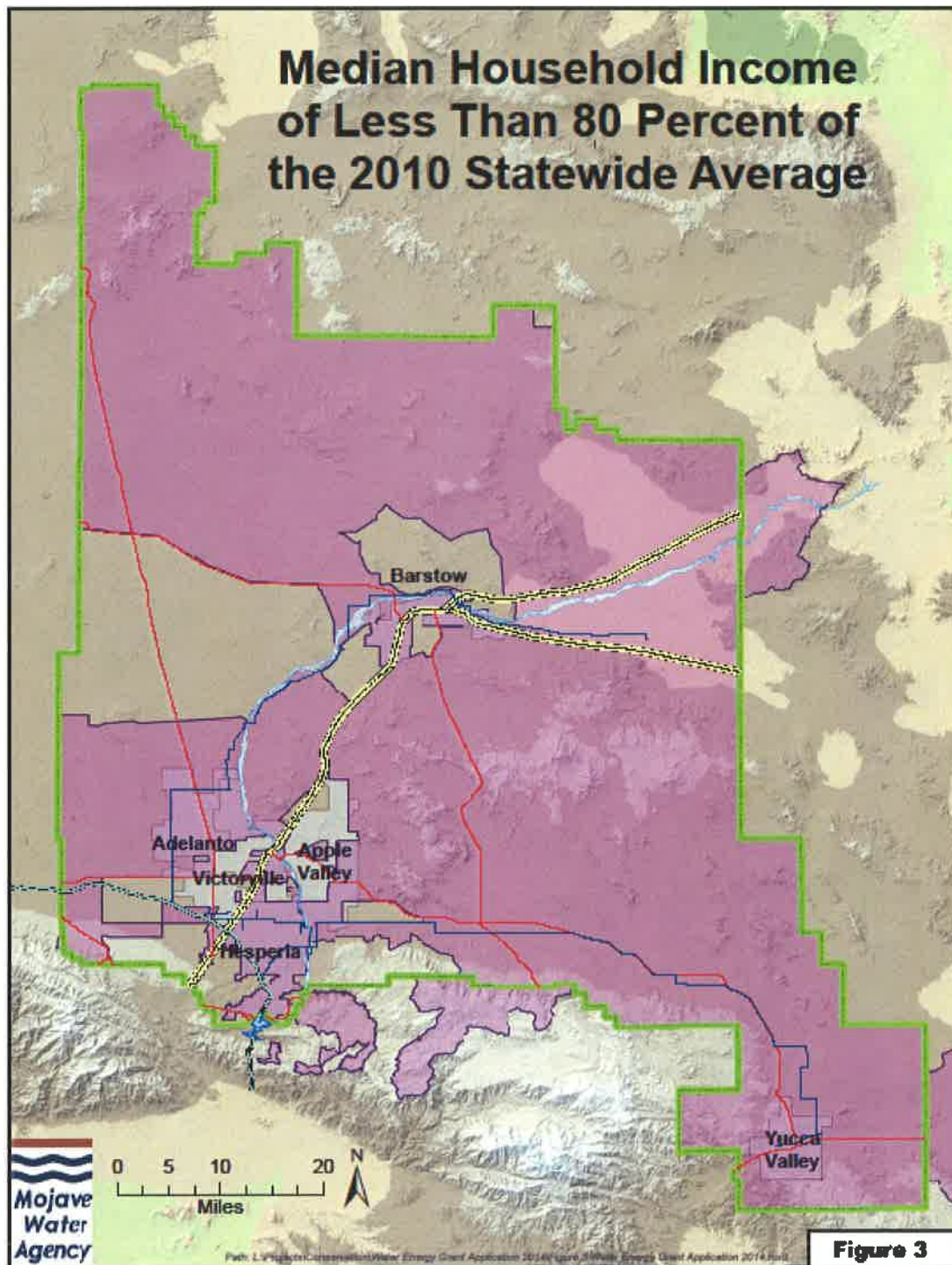


Figure 3: Designation of Disadvantaged Communities based on household incomes.